

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-734

W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13890 Dowell Road

Dowell, Calvert County

Ca. 1904

Private

The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office is located at 13890 Dowell Road in Dowell, Calvert County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1904 for Wilson W. Dowell, the building served as a general store from 1904 until 1983. Postal service for the town of Dowell began in 1926 and was operated from Dowell's store until 2001. The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office has remained in the Dowell family since its construction. The building is characteristic of the general store and post office in Calvert County.

The present structure was constructed in four distinct stages, with the original portion of the building dating from 1904. This main block consisted of the dwelling and commercial space. A two-story addition, ranging in height from one to two stories, was constructed on the rear about 1910. In the 1920s, the store was enlarged to two stories and dwelling was enlarged with little retention of original materials. About 1950, a one-story addition was constructed for use as a post office. Today, the wood-frame building stands two stories in height with an irregular footprint. It features vinyl siding, a central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap, and a front-gabled roof. The pier foundation is not visible, as it has been obscured by plywood. The roof is clad in standing seam and corrugated metal sheeting with an aluminum-encased boxed cornice. The property is further enhanced by a circa 1910 shed, a circa 1930 garage, and a circa 1970 shed.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-734

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic W.W. Dowell General Store and Post Office
other

2. Location

street and number 13890 Dowell Road not for publication
city, town Dowell vicinity
county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles O. Dowell, Jr. and Brenda E. Dowell
street and number PO Box 12 telephone 410/326-3366
city, town Dowell state MD zip code 20629-0012

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M44, P206
city, town Prince Frederic liber ABE folio 155

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-734

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office is located at 13890 Dowell Road in Dowell, Calvert County, Maryland. Set close to the road on a level, grassy lot, the vernacular building served as a general store and post office with living quarters to the rear. The present structure was constructed in four distinct stages, with the original portion of the building dating from 1904. This main block consisted of the dwelling and commercial space. A two-story addition, ranging in height from one to two stories, was constructed on the rear about 1910. In the 1920s, the store was enlarged to two stories and dwelling was enlarged with little retention of original materials. About 1950, a one-story addition was constructed for use as a post office.

Today, the wood-frame building stands two stories in height with an irregular footprint. It features vinyl siding, a central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap, and a front-gabled roof. The pier foundation is not visible, as it has been obscured by plywood. The roof is clad in standing seam and corrugated metal sheeting with an aluminum-encased boxed cornice.

The property is further enhanced by a circa 1910 shed, a circa 1930 garage, and a circa 1970 shed.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade or west elevation of the building consists of the circa 1920 store addition and the circa 1950 post office addition. The store stands two stories in height and six bays in width. Dominating the first story is a one-story, two-bay-wide front porch with square wood posts. The shed roof of the porch is clad in corrugated metal sheeting. The main entry of the store consists of a single-leaf wood door and an adjacent vertical board wood shutter that covers the sidelight. The off-center entry features a two-panel, three-light door set within a square-edged surround. Further adorning the first story of the façade are five 2/2 windows with square-edged wood sills. These window openings are mimicked at the second story, with four 2/2 windows, also with square-edged wood sills, and a single-leaf, four-panel door at the northwest corner. This entry is accessed via an exterior wood stair that is cut into the northern end of the porch. On the northwest corner of the building is the one-story wood-frame addition that was constructed circa 1950. Also clad in vinyl siding, the addition features a shed roof with standing seam metal. The addition, which was constructed to provide additional space for the post office, is pierced on the west elevation by a one-light fixed window set within a square-edged surround, and a single-leaf metal door with two panels and three lights. The enclosed side porch, which sits on the south elevation of the building, is accessed on the north by a single-leaf, two-panel, three-light door.

The south elevation of the W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office consists of the circa 1910 and circa 1920 additions. The enclosed side porch largely obscures the first story of the general store. Four 2/2 windows, like those on the façade, pierce the porch and an additional 2/2 window sits to the west of the porch. On the second story of the circa 1920 store addition are two 2/2 windows and two 6/6 windows, all with square-edged sills. The easternmost portion of the south elevation consists of the circa 1910 addition. It is set on a concrete pier foundation and features aluminum siding and an asymmetrical gable roof, which is clad in corrugated metal sheeting. Rising one story in height on this elevation, the addition features two 6/6 windows with narrow wood surrounds. Additionally, there is a single-leaf, two-panel, four-light door along this elevation.

The rear or east elevation is comprised of the circa 1904 dwelling and the circa 1910 addition. The main block is mostly obscured by the addition. However, visible on this elevation is a 6/6 window on both the first and second stories. The addition features two 6/6 windows on the first story and one in the upper half story. A four-light fixed window also pierces the half story. Further detailing the rear elevation is the circa 1950 post office addition, which is set at the northwest corner of the building. A single window opening, which has been boarded shut with plywood, pierces the rear elevation of this addition.

The north elevation of the W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office clearly defines the four separate building phases. The main block, which was constructed circa 1904, is centrally located and features two 6/6 windows on the second story. There are no openings on the first story of the main block. The circa 1910 addition, which sits to the east of the main block, is pierced at the

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first story by a 6/6 window and a single-leaf, six-panel metal replacement door. Mimicking these two openings on the second story are two 6/6 windows. The circa 1920 addition features two 2/2 windows at the second story. The first story of this addition is entirely obscured by the circa 1950 addition, which is pierced on this elevation by a single-leaf nine-light, two-panel door.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office served as a general store and post office until 1983. With the conversion of the general store to an antique store, all of the rooms in the building were converted to storerooms, except for the post office addition. This addition continued to be used as a post office until 2001; it is now used for offices. The multiple additions and varying construction stages have been blurred on the interior by these alterations. The store is entered from the west and is one large, open room. The storeroom features narrow, beaded paneling on both the walls and ceiling and there is an ogee-molded crown molding that surrounds the room. The floors have been covered with plywood sheets. According to the current owner, the original pine planks remain intact beneath the plywood. There is a two-inch-high square-edged wood baseboard, which is not continuous around the room. The doors feature five-inch-wide, square-edged surrounds and the windows are framed by four-and-a-half-inch-wide squared casements with a beaded edge. Throughout the room are six octagonal support posts that were installed circa 1920 when the original store was enlarged and raised one story. Representing this phase of construction is the straight stair, with a narrow wood rail and two square-cut balusters, in the northwest corner of the storeroom. A built-in counter with vertical board construction and wood-plank counter tops surrounds the northeast corner of the room.

Behind the counter is a storage room that is accessed by a single-leaf vertical board door. Located in the circa 1904 section of the building, the storage room is unfinished, with exposed beams of unmilled logs and plywood-covered floors. Likewise, the walls have partially been clad in sheets of cardboard. The circa 1950 post office is also accessed from behind the counter, through a single-leaf, six-panel door. The post office addition is divided into three separate rooms: an office, a lobby, and a storage room. After the post office closed in 2001, the metal postage boxes were removed from the lobby area. All three rooms within the post office addition feature wall-to-wall carpeting, walls with simulated-wood paneling, and a drop ceiling with acoustic tile panels. Plain, narrow wood surrounds frame the windows and doors within this section of the building.

The enclosed porch sits on the south side of the main storeroom. Within this section of the building, the original wood weatherboard of the exterior is visible and acts as the wall cladding for the north wall of the room. The windows and door openings in the enclosed porch feature reeded surrounds. Like the post office, this section of the building features wall-to-wall carpeting and a drop ceiling with acoustic tile panels.

To the rear of the storeroom are three rooms, which sit in the circa 1910 addition. This section of the building was originally constructed as living quarters for the Dowell family. The walls are partially clad in beaded paneling and partially clad in wallboard with wallpaper. Covering the floors is wall-to-wall carpeting framed by a six-inch-high square-edged baseboard. This addition features four-inch-wide reeded door surrounds and four-and-a-half-inch-wide, square-edged window surrounds. A straight, boxed stair leads to the second floor from the northwest corner of the addition.

The second floor has also been converted to storerooms. In the circa 1920 addition, the walls and ceilings are clad in beaded paneling, like the first floor. However, on the second floor, the floors have not been recovered and feature two-and-a-half-inch wide wood boards. The second floor of the rear living quarters feature three-and-a-half-inch wide wood boards and wallboard-clad walls that have been painted. Further detailing this space are reeded window surrounds and square-edged door surrounds.

OUTBUILDINGS

Two historic outbuildings and a non-historic outbuilding enhance the W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office property. The

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one-story, one-bay-wide shed was constructed circa 1910 and features board-and-batten cladding. Covering the wood frame building is a front-gabled roof with corrugated metal cladding. A single-leaf, vertical-board wood door accesses it. The circa 1930 garage, standing one story in height and one bay in width, is set on a concrete pier foundation. Both the walls and front-gabled roof are clad in corrugated metal sheets. There is also a circa 1970 one-story, one-bay-wide shed. The prefabricated metal shed features a front-gabled roof. Both the walls and roof are clad in corrugated metal sheets.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates c1904; 1926

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates c1904; c1910

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office is located at 13890 Dowell Road in Dowell, Calvert County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1904 for Wilson W. Dowell, the building served as a general store from 1904 until 1983. Postal service for the town of Dowell began in 1926 and was operated from Dowell's store until 2001. The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office has remained in the Dowell family since its construction. The building is characteristic of the general store and post office in Calvert County.

HISTORY OF THE W. W. DOWELL GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE

The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office was constructed circa 1904 for Wilson Dowell, who relocated to Calvert County from Baltimore in the first years of the 20th century. In his youth, Dowell had worked as a waterboy in the construction of the Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad. Moving to Calvert County, he first worked as a farmer, with an interest in vegetable and seafood packing. On July 15, 1904, Wilson W. Dowell leased the two-acre tract of land from Ellender A. Railey. The three-year lease, which was to be active from May 15, 1904 until May 15, 1907, was for the annual sum of ten dollars. Just over a year later, on October 12, 1905, Wilson purchased the property from Railey for thirty dollars.

A historic photograph from circa 1904 shows Dowell standing in front of his general store. At that time, the store was one story in height and ran perpendicular to the two-story dwelling at its rear. The store featured a single-leaf vertical board entry and two 6/6 windows on the west elevation. The attached dwelling, which sat to the rear, appears to have been two stories in height and two bays in depth. The circa 1904 general store seen in the photograph was subsumed within the circa 1920 addition. (1)

Dowell's interest in the seafood business was realized in 1919, when he constructed an oyster-packing house on the rear of his property, behind the store. This business remained active from 1919 until 1937. On December 22, 1926, the post office was officially established by the United States Postal Service in the W. W. Dowell General Store. (2) At that time, the post office was located in the southwest corner of the store. During the 1930s, Dowell's sales receipts, labeled "W.W. Dowell, General Merchandise, Meats - Confectionery and Tobacco," indicated what was being sold in the store.

On February 27, 1945, Wilson W. Dowell died intestate and his property, consisting of seven parcels of land, was divided between his widow Sadie E. Dowell, and his children Sherbert S. Dowell, Charles O. Dowell, Daniel D. Dowell, F. Fulton Dowell, Eunice V. Humphreys, and Isabel L. Crout. The store and post office were located on parcel one of the seven parcels mentioned in the transfer of property. On February 28, 1951, his children deeded their share of the property to Sadie E. Dowell, who retained sole ownership until 1966. It was during this period that the one-story addition on the northwest corner of the building was constructed. This addition was for the sole purpose of operating the postal service. In 1966, the property, still consisting of approximately two acres, was conveyed to Charles O. Dowell and his wife Velma V. Dowell. Under Charles and Velma Dowell's ownership, the

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general store was closed in 1983. The building was reopened as an antique store. Despite the closure of the general store, the post office continued to operate from the premises. Following Charles Dowell's death, the property was sold to Charles O. Dowell, Jr. and his wife, Brenda E. Dowell on February 21, 1986. This deed was subject to a lease that was executed by Charles O. Dowell and Velma V. Dowell on November 21, 1985. This lease, which was accepted by Philip E. Wilson, Manager of Real Estate for the Postal Service, was for the rental of the Dowell Post Office for the sum of \$200 per month. (3) The United States Postal Service continued to lease this space until 2001, when the post office constructed a new facility at 14515 Dowell Road. The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office continues to serve the community as an antique store.

THE GENERAL STORE IN CALVERT COUNTY

The general store of the late 19th and early 20th centuries is a highly significant building type in Calvert County not only for its practical function in supplying goods, but also for its function as a meeting place for widely dispersed county residents. Often combined with a post office, the general store was during this period one of the primary means for regular social interaction in the rural agricultural Calvert County. The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office is exemplary of this building type in Calvert County.

General stores were located in small towns or along rural transportation routes, both land and water, particularly crossroads (as in the case of the W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office), waterway landings, and at railroad freight or flag stops. In Calvert County, most of the known general stores date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries and adopt a form similar to a late-Victorian-era dwelling. Most known general stores in Calvert County either began as dwellings, with the store being built onto or into them at a later date, or the store was originally built in conjunction with a residence. Often the proprietor of the store would live in the building, or would rent out the residence to family or employees. This may explain the prevalence of a domestic architectural form and language for general stores of this time period throughout the county.

The "general" store was so named because of the general nature of items carried. First and foremost in the country general store was the agricultural and livestock merchandise such as feed, seeds for planting, small tools and supplies such as rope and nails. Fishing, oystering and crabbing supplies such as bait, nets and cages would have been sold in many stores, as well, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th century with the rise of the seafood industry in Calvert County. Basic food items, primarily dry goods, were carried as well, such as flour and salt, and to a lesser extent perishable items such as freshly butchered meats and dairy products. Availability of perishable items such as meats, dairy products, fruits and vegetable, before refrigeration became readily accessible in the second quarter of the 20th century would have been periodic, with local butchers or farmers delivering fresh items in relatively small quantities. Some storeowners stocked freshly butchered meat from their own livestock for sale in the store. Most county residents, however, would have such items supplied on their own farm. Already prepared food, such as is common in gas station convenience stores today, was uncommon in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but by the mid-20th century many general stores offered prepared foods such as cold cut sandwiches or even had a grill.

Tobacco products, toiletries, newspapers and other periodical publications and medicines were an essential component of the general store, which featured a variety of painkillers, tonics and elixirs, and other general remedies. General stores frequently carried sweets and sodas, as well, the latter deriving from general store medicine tonics and achieving its current popularity by introduction in country general stores of the late 19th and early 20th century. Many general stores also carried cloth, or basic apparel for the rural residents engaged in agricultural or maritime pursuits. Standard items included farming and fishing apparel such as overalls and cotton shirts or waterproof gear, underwear, socks and shoes, as well as more luxury items such as collared shirts, dresses and hats. Small gifts and toys were also common in the general store. Following the introduction of gasoline-powered automobiles and boats, gasoline fuel pumps became a major component to the general store, both along automobile, railroad and water routes.

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In addition to stocking basic goods and necessities, the country general store also provided a variety of services to the rural and small town resident. As described above, general stores frequently contained local post offices where patrons could retrieve and post mail, or send money orders. General stores were often the first, and sometimes the only, location in the area to have a telephone, and residents would travel substantial distances to make a telephone call.

Country general stores were more than just places to purchase goods. Wide front porches with chairs or interior seating areas arranged around wood heating stoves were provided for the customers by the proprietor specifically to encourage social interaction which preserved the customer base and provided the proprietor with the opportunity to visit and catch up on local news and gossip. Local residents and store proprietors knew one another, sometimes their entire lives, and visits to the store for both business and social purposes became part of their routine. During the day, both men and women, black and white, would gather and socialize in the general store, as opposed to other meeting places such as schools and churches, the latter which were not only segregated by race, but very often sex as well. Evenings, however, when the general store stayed open late, were largely reserved for the men of the community who would gather on the porches in the summer or around the wood stove in the winter to talk, play cards or checkers, or listen to the radio. Single men were known to have spent just about every night at their local general store, whereas married men visited less frequently.

General stores began to decline in popularity and number following World War II, largely due to the appearance of supermarkets, department stores, and other specialized merchandise stores. Some general stores adapted to the changes taking place by becoming gas station convenience stores that catered less to the local community and more to transient patrons. Many general stores were turned into residences or simply abandoned when the business was no longer financially viable. Other general stores were converted into liquor stores or other businesses. The W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office was converted into an antique store in 1983, but, interestingly, the post office continued to operate in the building until 2001. Only a small percentage of late-19th- and early-20th-century general stores have survived in something like their original function.

CHAIN OF TITLE

October 2, 1894: John B. Gray to Mary J. Gatton
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber TBT 3, Folio 30

November 25, 1895: Mary J. Gatton to Ellender A. Railey
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber TBT 5, Folio 133

July 15, 1904: Ellender A. Railey to Wilson W. Dowell
Lease Agreement
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber GWD 4, Folio 528

October 15, 1905: Ellender A. Railey to Wilson W. Dowell
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber GWD 5, Folio 566

February 27, 1945: Wilson W. Dowell to Sadie E. Dowell, Sherbert S. Dowell, Charles O. Dowell, Daniel D. Dowell, F. Fulton Dowell, Eunice V. Humphreys, and Isabel L. Crout
Land Records of Calvert County

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Liber AWR 25, Folio 543

February 28, 1951: Sherbert S. and Mildred H. Dowell, Charles O. and Velma V. Dowell, F. Fulton and Barbara B. Dowell, Eunice V. and John Edgars Humphreys, Jr., and Isabel L. Crout to Sadie E. Dowell
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 25, Folio 543

December 30, 1966: Sadie E. Dowell to Charles O. and Velma V. Dowell
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 87, Folio 356

November 21, 1985: Charles O. Dowell and Velma V. Dowell to Philip E. Watson, Manager of Real Estate for the Postal Service Lease Agreement
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 353, Folio 31

February 21, 1986: Velma V. Dowell, survivor of a Tenancy by the Entireties with Charles O. Dowell to Charles O. Dowell, Jr. and Brenda E. Dowell
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 407, Folio 155

ENDNOTES

1. Richard J. Dodds, editor, Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, (Solomons, Maryland: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995), p. 77.
2. "Calvert County Post Offices," Post Offices, Vertical Files, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
3. Land Records of Calvert County. Liber ABE 407, Folio 155. Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-734

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.62 Acres

Acreage of historical setting 2 Acres

Quadrangle name Solomons Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Dowell General Store and Post Office has been associated with Parcel 206, as denoted on Tax Map 44, since its construction circa 1904.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historians

organization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.

date 8/26/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W.

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name W.W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

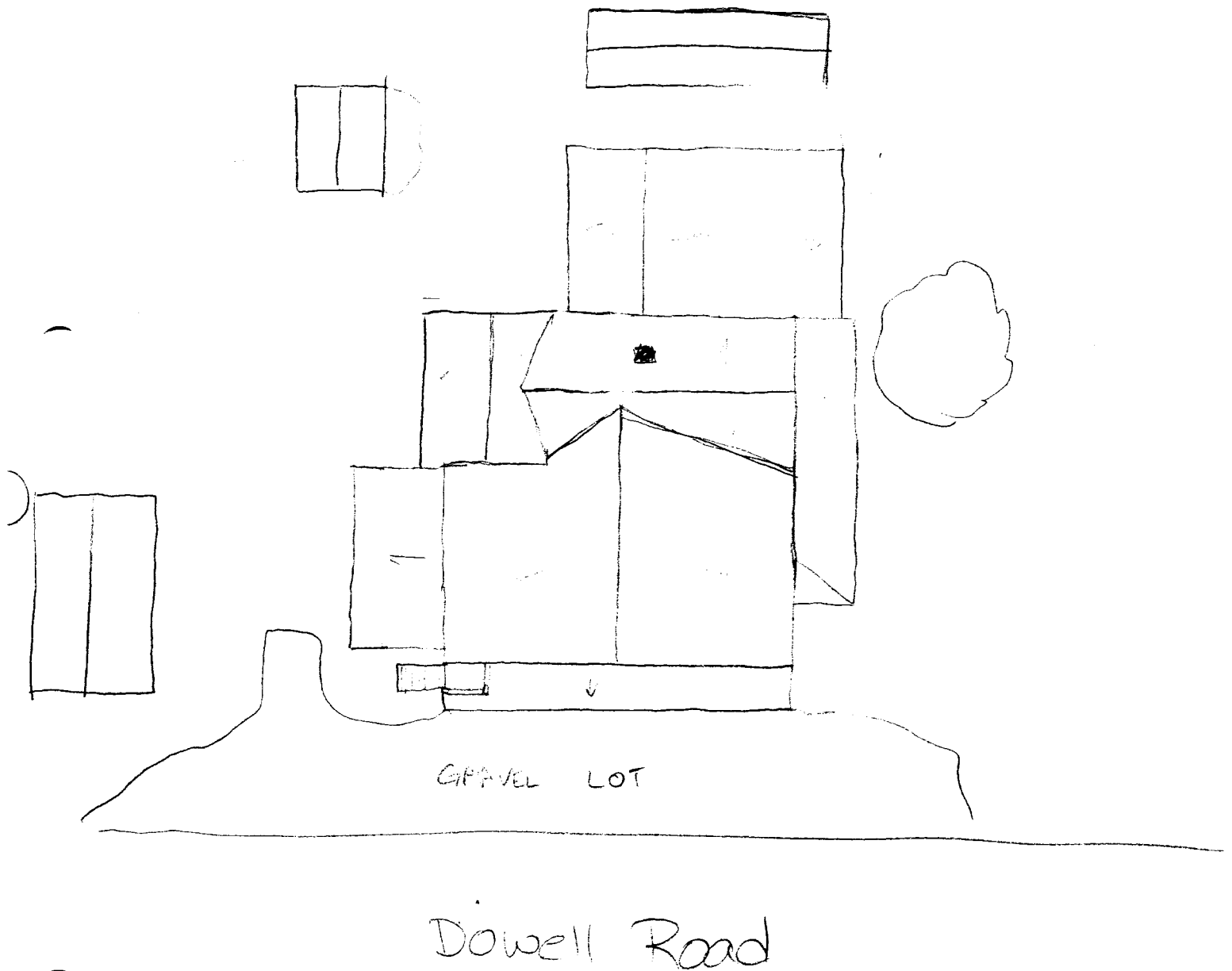
Continuation Sheet

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Dodds, Richard J., Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, (Solomons, MD: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995).

CT-734

← N



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CT-734

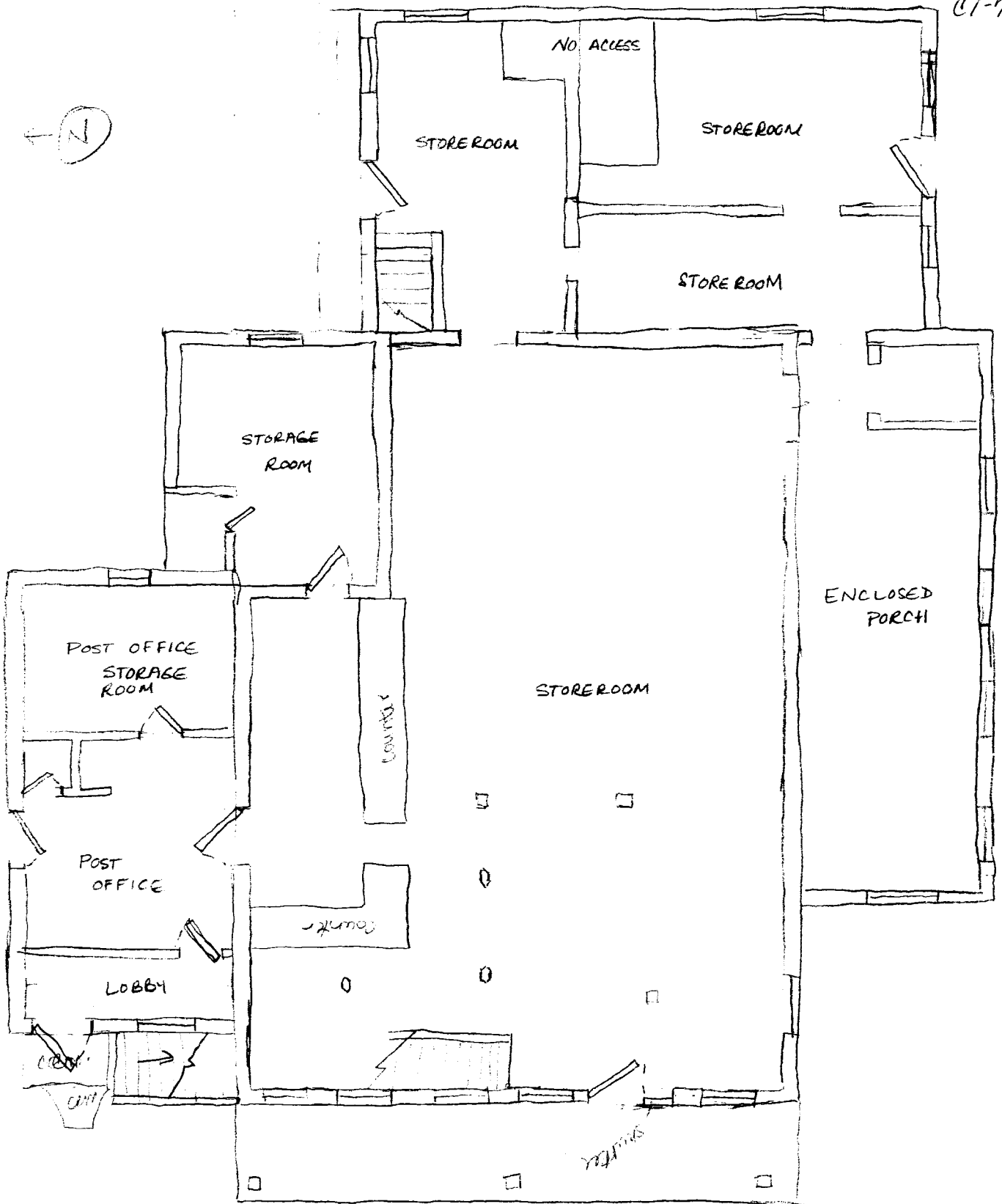
W.W. DOWELL GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE

13892 DOWELL ROAD

DOWELL, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

← N

CT-734



CT- 734
 W.W. DOWELL STORE & POST OFFICE
 13892 DOWELL ROAD
 DOWELL, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

FIRST FLOOR
 NOT DRAWN TO SCALE NE
 MAY 2002

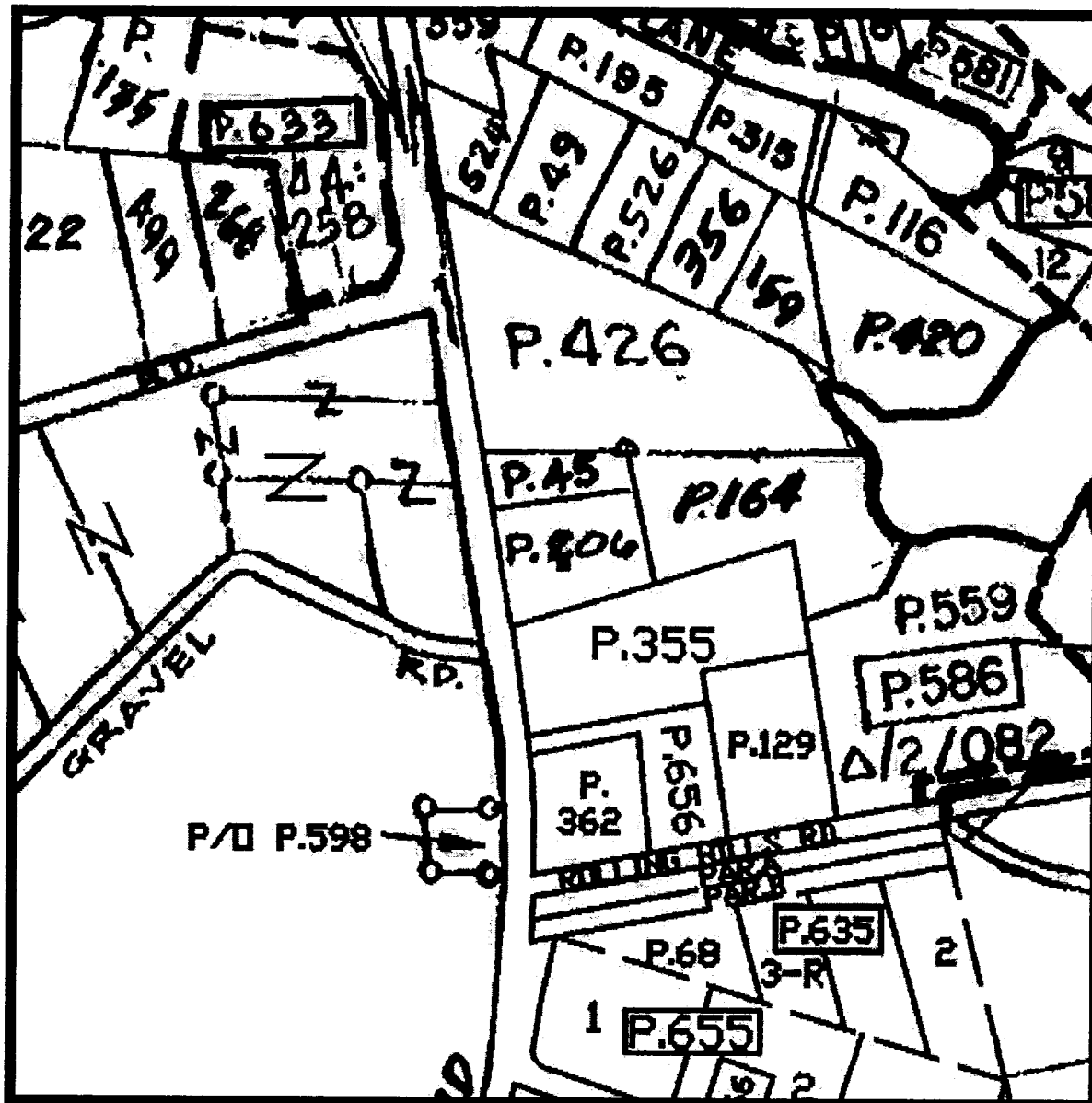
CT-734



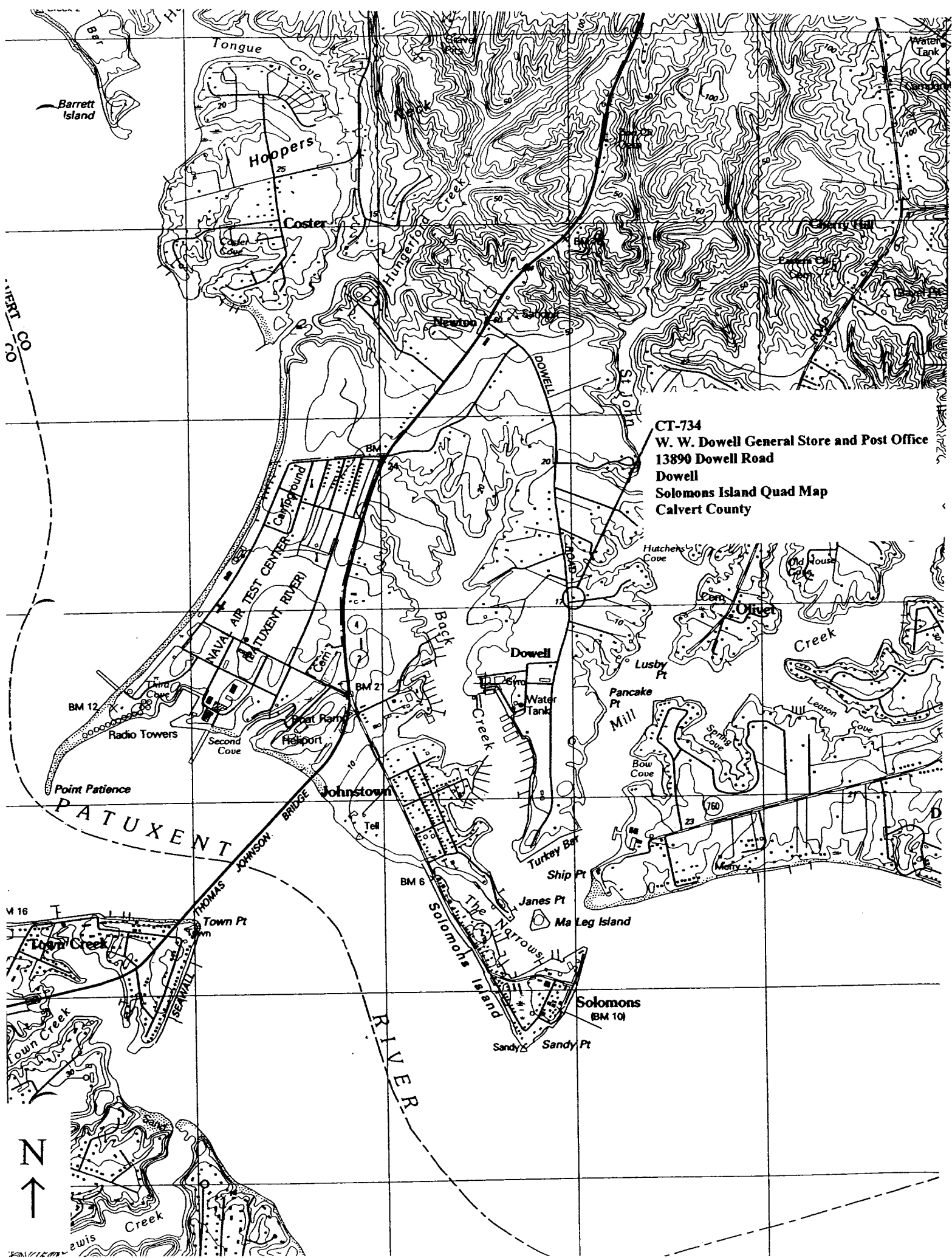
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
CALVERT COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

Go Back
View Map
New Search

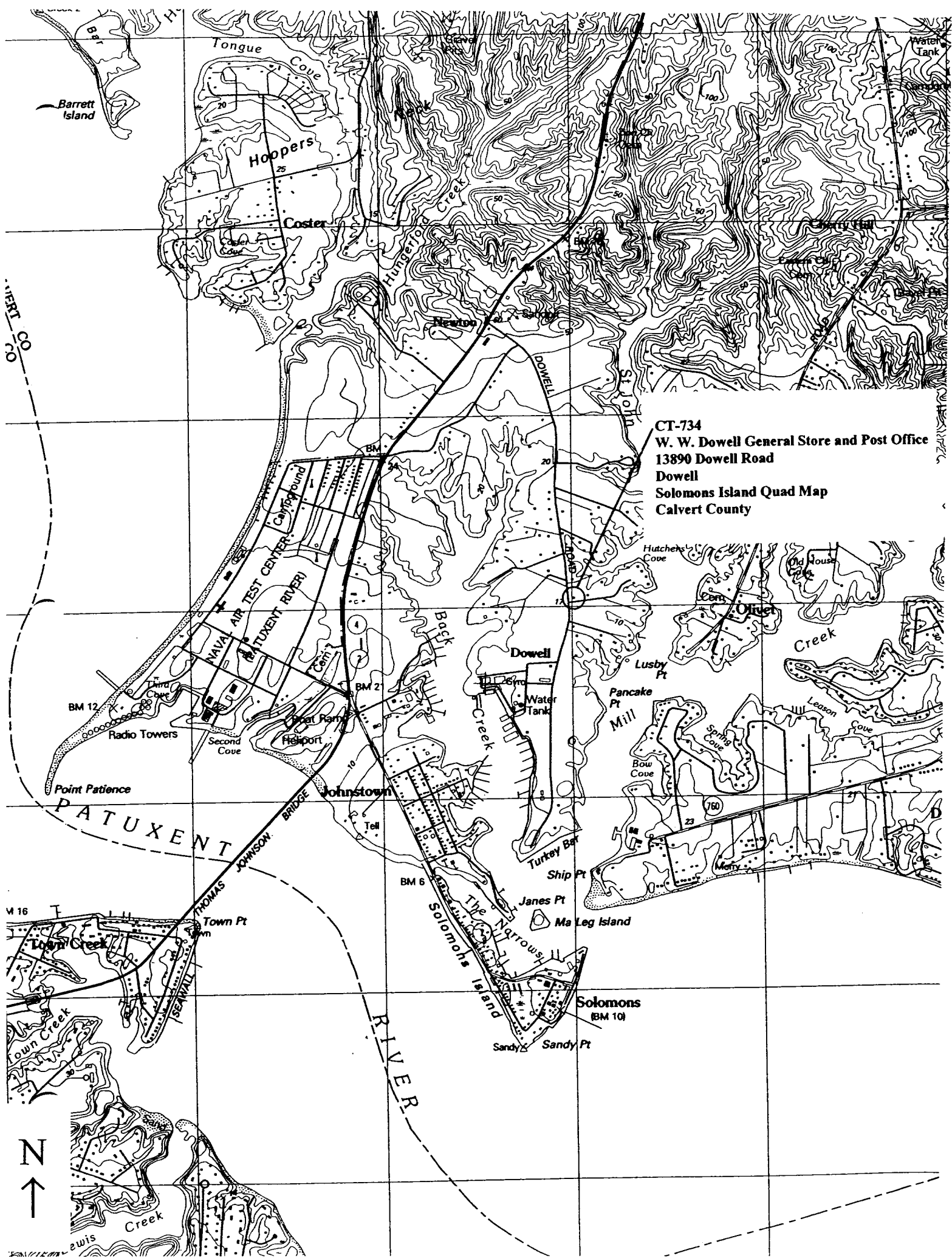
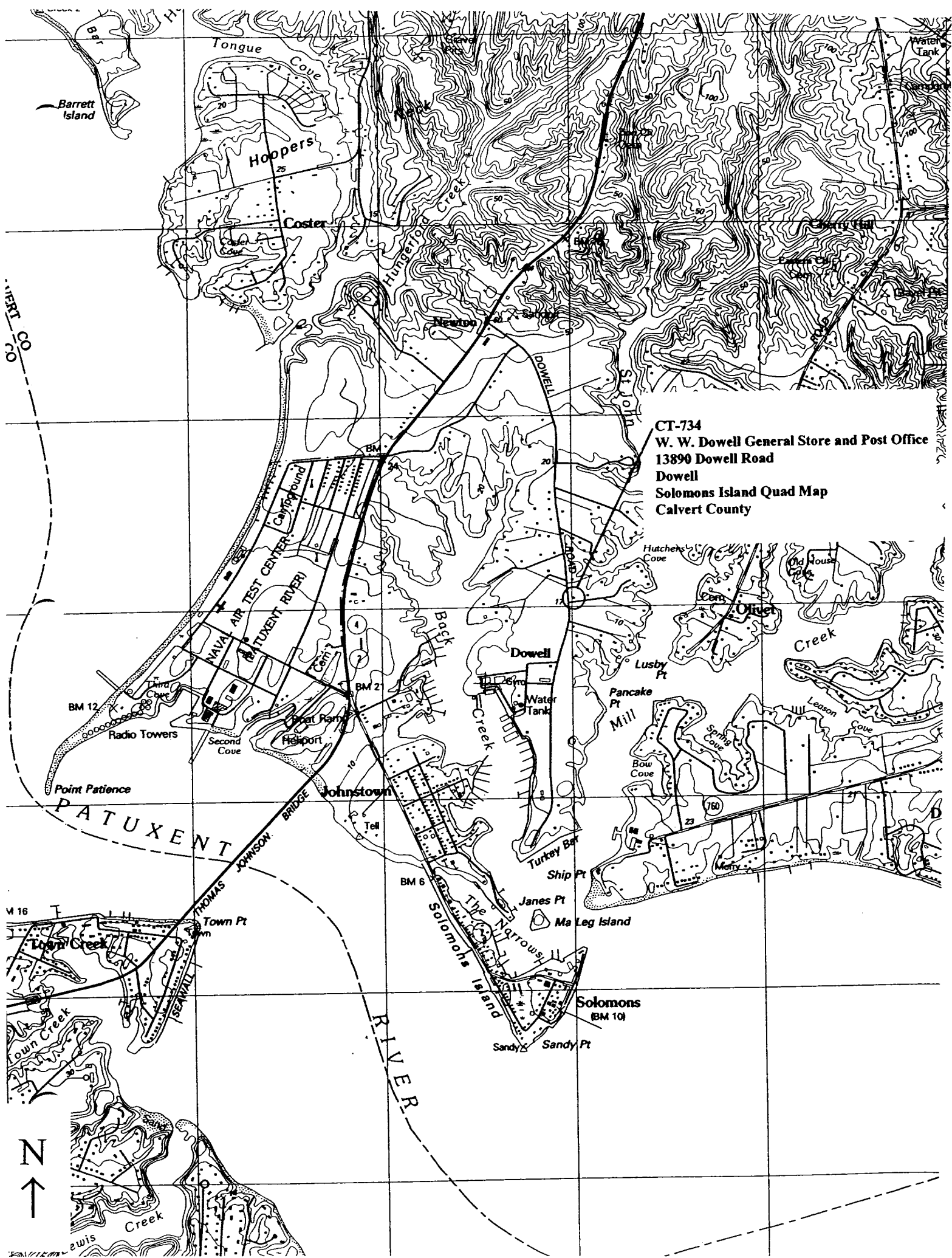
District - 01 Account Number - 201484



Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us



CT-734
W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office
13890 Dowell Road
Dowell
Solomons Island Quad Map
Calvert County





CT-734

W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

West Elevation, Looking East

1 OF 8



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W.W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

South Elevation, Looking Northeast



CT-73A

W.W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

East Elevation, Looking West

3 of 8



CT-734

W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

North Elevation, Looking South

4 of 8



CT-734

W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Interior, 1ST Floor, Store, Looking West

5 OF 8



CT-734

W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Interior, 1st Floor, Store, Looking SE

6 OF 8



CT-734

W.W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

1589a Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Interior, 2ND Floor, Store, Looking NW

7 of 8



CT-734

W. W. Dowell General Store and Post Office

13892 Dowell Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Garage & Shed, Looking SE

3 OF 8

CT-734
DOWELL STORE
(c. 1900)
Dowell
Public

This two-story frame store exhibits a gable facade. The building incorporates a two-story, two-bay frame dwelling at the rear. The store's west-facing facade measures five bays wide. A porch covers this side.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-734

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dowell Storeand/or common Dowell Post Office/Antique Shop

2. Location

street & number Dowell Road not for publicationcity, town Dowell vicinity of congressional district state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles Dowellstreet & number telephone no.: city, town Dowell state and zip code Maryland 20629

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber street & number Main Street (Maryland Route 765) folio city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title date federal state county local depository for survey records city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-734

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This early twentieth-century commercial building faces west onto Dowell Road. The main section of the building is a two-story framed and weatherboarded structure oriented with its gable end toward the street. The roof covering is decoratively molded sheet metal. Its facade is six bays wide, with an off-center, double-door entrance. A one-story shed-roofed porch with plain wooded posts shelters the front of the building. A two-story cross-gable wing intersects the main roof near the rear of the building; it may define the original domestic section of this structure. One-story framed and weatherboarded sheds have been built onto the sides and rear of this building. The structure has recently been vinyl sided.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-734

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Directed historical research would more firmly establish the historical significance of this site.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dowell Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Dowell Road

CITY, TOWN

Dowell

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arthur E. Garde, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Calvert County

Liber #: JLB 216

Folio #: 199

STREET & NUMBER

Route 765

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GDOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story frame store exhibits a gable facade. The building incorporates a two-story, two-bay frame dwelling at the rear. The store's west-facing facade measures five bays wide. A porch covers this side.

The main entrance with its attached window occupies the second bay from the south. Two over two windows light the store, and six over six windows light the dwelling. Brick chimneys heat the west end of the dwelling and the southeast end of the store.

Asphalt shingles cover the roof. Asbestos shingles cover the walls. A modern one-story post office addition covered by a shed roof extends to the north.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a typical rural Calvert County store from the turn of the century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

March, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Box 107

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dunkirk

STATE

MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

**SOLOMONS
CAWERT COUNTY MAPS # 44, 46**

CT 734

NEWTOWN

DOWELL

NEWTOWN RD

CT876
P87

CT874
P82

CT878
P88

CT877
P171

CTARI
P46

ST JOHN
CREEK

MD 214

SOLOMONS ISLAND ROAD



Ct-734 Dowell Post Office
Dowell Road
Dowell

Camille Wells
view from the southwest

9/86



CT-734

Dowell Store

Dowell Road, Dowell, MD

Calvert County

N&W elev.

Merry Stinson
May, 1980